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10/787,515	02/26/2004	David James Clarke	ID-910 (80233)	6465
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ADDMG - RIM 255 S. Orange Avenue Suite 1401 Orlando, FL 32801			TIMBLIN, ROBERT M	
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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

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# Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/787,515

**Applicant(s)**

CLARKE ET AL.

**Examiner**

ROBERT TIMBLIN

**Art Unit**

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2011.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ An election was made by the applicant in response to a restriction requirement set forth during the interview on \_\_\_\_; the restriction requirement and election have been incorporated into this action.
- 4) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9-11,14,17-19 and 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 5a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5,7,9-11,14,17-19 and 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 9) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 10) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-806)  
Paper No(s) Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s) Mail Date \_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_

### **DETAILED ACTION**

This Office Action corresponds to application 10/787,515 which was filed 2/26/2004.

### **Response to Amendment**

The Applicants' amendment, filed 7/20/2011, has been received, entered into the record and considered. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 9-10, 14, and 17-19 are amended. Claims 8, 13, 16, and 21 have been cancelled and claims 22-24 are newly added. As a result of the amendment, claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14, 17-19, and 22-24 are pending in the application.

In light of the amendments, the prior claim objections and 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection to claims 9 and 17 and their respective depending claims have been withdrawn.

### ***Claim Objections***

Claims 1, 9, and 17 are objected to because they use two formats for "e-mail" (i.e. "e-mail" or "email"). Only one format is suggested to be used to provide consistency in the claims.

Claim 1 is also objected to because it recites "retrieve and cache the shared system setup information by said respective email account database to interface said communications device with said respective email account database." Accordingly, "by said respective email account database" is unclear. It is interpreted for examination that this element should read "of said respective email account database". It is also unclear

if the shared system setup information is retrieved from a said respective email account database or from the central database in this step. For interpretation, since the setup information is claimed as stored in the central database, the setup information is interpreted to be retrieved from the central database.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**Claims 1-5, 7, 9-11, 14, 17-19, and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arnold et al. (U.S. Patent 6,965,918), hereinafter 'Arnold' in view of Rierden et al. (hereinafter Rierden, US 5,978,577), and further in view of Skene et al. (hereinafter 'Skene', U.S. Patent Application 2001/0052016).**

With respect to claim 1, Arnold teaches A communications system (Fig. 2) comprising:

a plurality of e-mail account databases (114a-114n) each configured to store information associated with different e-mail accounts (col. 3 lines 6-8 and servers 114 which host individual email or other messaging accounts) ;

a central database (registration database 108) configured to store (storage, as taught by Rierden) location information associating each e-mail account with a

respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. locations and IP addresses of the user's email boxes is obtained), and shared system setup information for accessing said plurality of email account databases (col. 3 lines 1-4 and Fig 7. Col. 4 lines 5-22 disclose that information in database 108 is used to validate a user in order to access an account database);

a communications device (client device 102) configured to access e-mail account information (col. 3 lines 55-64; e.g. a user connects to and is serviced by proxy server to view available email accounts and pending email messages); and

an interface device (proxy server 106) configured to:

receive an e-mail account access request from said communications device for a desired e-mail account (co. 3 lines 66-67 wherein a client device connect to proxy server 106. In col. 4, lines 8-11 wherein once validated, the user access request is accepted);

retrieve (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email mailboxes) e-mail account location information (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email mailboxes) for the desired e-mail account (114) and initially interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information (col 4 lines 8-16, 32-43, and lines 48-52 wherein a user accesses email servers 114), and

retrieve and cache (memory 122 which may be RAM) the shared system setup information by said respective email account database (col. 4 lines 14-20; e.g. user

account name information is obtained in the proxy server) to interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 18-30 wherein the registration database is used by the proxy server to validate a user and connect them with a mailbox).

Arnold teaches a central database as the registration database and retrieval of location information, but does not appear to clearly teach the central database configured to store the location information.

Rierden however, teaches the central database configured to store the location information (See column 8, lines 30-37 and col. 28 lines 49-51 wherein the X-Ref servers are a resource used for determining where specific data resides and see FIG 5. showing the different account information being stored on the data servers.)

Accordingly, in the same field endeavor (i.e. distributed database access and retrieval), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because the teachings of Rierden would have given Arnold the benefit of storage of location information in order to more efficiently service access requests.

Arnold and Rierden teach an interface device retrieving e-mail account location information (Arnold, see above. Rierden may also be seen to teach an interface device as a DDS 150) but they do not appear to teach caching this information as well as subsequently, interfacing said communications device with said respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information;

Skene, however, teaches using the cached account location information and subsequently interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database (0069) associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information (0068; where the local DNS server provides the cached IP address that is associated (resolved) with the domain name to the client. Flowing to a block 226, the client is connected to the resolved IP address so that the client may access resources (content) associated with the domain name) for caching location information for later referrals in subsequent requests.

Accordingly, in the same field of endeavor, (i.e. distributed database systems), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because by caching location information for subsequent use as taught by Skene, Arnold and Rierden would have been able to reduce network traffic and server queries (needed by Arnold describing access requests and maintenance of a mailbox from a client and Rierden, col. 8 lines 47-49 and 9 lines 11-12 when they describe retrieving in per transaction approach) by having necessary data on hand.

With respect to claim 2, Skene with Arnold and Rierden further teach the communications system of Claim 1 wherein said interface device comprises a caching module for caching the e-mail account location information (0069).

With respect to claim 3, Arnold teaches the communications system of Claim 1 wherein said communications device has an operating protocol associated with said communications device, and wherein said interface device comprises at least one protocol interface module configured to communicate for communicating with said communications device using the operating protocol (col. 2 lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 4 and similar claim 11, Arnold teaches the communications system of Claim 3 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module (col. 3 lines 23-24; e.g. POP3 communication).

With respect to claim 5, Arnold teaches the communications system of Claim 3 wherein said interface device further comprises a control module configured to interface said at least one protocol interface module with said central and e-mail account databases (proxy server 106 and col. 2 lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 7, Arnold teaches the communications system of Claim 1 wherein said communications device comprises at least one mobile wireless communications device (col. 2 lines 55-63).



With respect to claim 9, Arnold teaches n interface device for interfacing a communications device with a plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing information associated with different e-mail accounts, the interface device comprising:

a controller (120) configured to receive an e-mail account access request (co. 3 lines 66-67 wherein a client device connect to proxy server 106. In col. 4, lines 8-11 wherein once validated, the user access request is accepted) from the communications device (102) for a desired e-mail account, retrieve (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email mailboxes) e-mail account location information (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email mailboxes) associating the desired e-mail account with a respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 20-21) from a central database (108), and initially and subsequently interface the communications device with the respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account (col 4 lines 8-16, 32-43, and lines 48-52 wherein a user accesses email servers 114) based upon the email account location information (col. 5 lines 18-30 wherein the registration database is used by the proxy server to validate a user and connect them with a mailbox); and

a cache coupled (122) to said controller (120) ;

the central database (108) further configured to store shared system setup information for accessing the plurality of email account databases (col. 3 lines 1-4 and Fig 7. Col. 4 lines 5-22 disclose that information in database 108 is used to validate a user in order to access an account database), and said controller (102) also configured

to retrieve the shared system setup information to interface the communications device with the respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 18-30 wherein the registration database is used by the proxy server to validate a user and connect them with a mailbox), and said cache (memory 122 which may be RAM) configured to cache the retrieved shared system setup information (col. 4 lines 14-20; e.g. user account name information is obtained in the proxy server).

Arnold teaches a central database as the registration database and retrieval of location information, but does not appear to clearly teach the central database configured to store the location information.

Rierden however, teaches the central database configured to store the location information (See column 8, lines 30-37 and col. 28 lines 49-51 wherein the X-Ref servers are a resource used for determining where specific data resides and see FIG 5. showing the different account information being stored on the data servers.)

Accordingly, in the same field endeavor (i.e. distributed database access and retrieval), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because the teachings of Rierden would have given Arnold the benefit of storage of location information in order to more efficiently service access requests.

Arnold and Rierden teach an interface device retrieving e-mail account location information (Arnold, see above. Rierden may also be seen to teach an interface device as a DDS 150) but they do not appear to teach caching this information as well as subsequently, interfacing said communications device with said respective e-mail

account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information;

Skene, however, teaches using the cached account location information and subsequently interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database (0069) associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information (0068; where the local DNS server provides the cached IP address that is associated (resolved) with the domain name to the client. Flowing to a block 226, the client is connected to the resolved IP address so that the client may access resources (content) associated with the domain name) for caching location information for later referrals in subsequent requests.

Accordingly, in the same field of endeavor, (i.e. distributed database systems), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because by caching location information for subsequent use as taught by Skene, Arnold and Rierden would have been able to reduce network traffic and server queries (needed by Arnold describing access requests and maintenance of a mailbox from a client and Rierden, col. 8 lines 47-49 and 9 lines 11-12 when they describe retrieving in per transaction approach) by having necessary data on hand.

With respect to claim 10, Arnold teaches the interface device of Claim 9 wherein the communications device has an operating protocol associated with said communications device (Fig. 2); and further comprising at least one protocol interface

module configured to use using the operating protocol for interfacing said control module with the communications device (Fig. 3 and col. 2 lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 14, Arnold teaches A method for interfacing a communications device with a plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing information associated with different e-mail accounts, the method comprising:

receiving an e-mail account access request from the a communications device for a desired e-mail account (co. 3 lines 66-67 wherein a client device connect to proxy server 106. In col. 4, lines 8-11 wherein once validated, the user access request is accepted);

retrieving and caching (Fig. 3 wherein memory 122 is seen as a cache) e-mail account location information associating the desired e-mail account with a respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. obtaining the locations and IP addresses of the user's email mailboxes) and shared system setup information for accessing the plurality of email account databases (col. 4 lines 14-20; e.g. user account name information is obtained in the proxy server) from a central database (108); and

initially and subsequently interfacing the communications device (102) with the respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the retrieved e-mail account location (col. 5 lines 20-21) information and the retrieved shared system setup information (col 4 lines 8-16, 32-43, and lines 48-52 wherein a user accesses email servers 114).

Arnold teaches a central database as the registration database and retrieval of location information, but does not appear to clearly teach the central database configured to store the location information.

Rierden however, teaches the central database configured to store the location information (See column 8, lines 30-37 and col. 28 lines 49-51 wherein the X-Ref servers are a resource used for determining where specific data resides and see FIG 5. showing the different account information being stored on the data servers.)

Accordingly, in the same field endeavor (i.e. distributed database access and retrieval), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because the teachings of Rierden would have given Arnold the benefit of storage of location information in order to more efficiently service access requests.

Arnold and Rierden teach an interface device retrieving e-mail account location information (Arnold, see above. Rierden may also be seen to teach an interface device as a DDS 150) but they do not appear to teach caching this information as well as subsequently, interfacing said communications device with said respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information;

Skene, however, teaches using the cached account location information and subsequently interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database (0069) associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information (0068; where the local DNS server provides the cached IP

address that is associated (resolved) with the domain name to the client. Flowing to a block 226, the client is connected to the resolved IP address so that the client may access resources (content) associated with the domain name) for caching location information for later referrals in subsequent requests.

Accordingly, in the same field of endeavor, (i.e. distributed database systems), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because by caching location information for subsequent use as taught by Skene, Arnold and Rierden would have been able to reduce network traffic and server queries (needed by Arnold describing access requests and maintenance of a mailbox from a client and Rierden, col. 8 lines 47-49 and 9 lines 11-12 when they describe retrieving in per transaction approach) by having necessary data on hand.

With respect to claim 17, Arnold teaches A non-transitory computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for interfacing a communications device with a plurality of e-mail account databases each for storing information associated with different e-mail accounts, the computer-readable medium comprising:

a control module (120) for receiving an e-mail account access request (co. 3 lines 66-67 wherein a client device connect to proxy server 106. In col. 4, lines 8-11 wherein once validated, the user access request is accepted) from the communications device (102) for a desired e-mail account (col. 4 lines 16-20), retrieving (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email

mailboxes) e-mail account location information associating the desired e-mail account with a respective e-mail account database (col. 5 lines 20-21; e.g. the proxy server 106 obtains the locations and IP address of the user's email mailboxes) from a central database (108), and initially; and

the central database (108) further storing and caching shared system setup information for accessing the plurality of email account databases (col.3 lines 1-4), said control module (120) also retrieving the shared system setup information to interface for the communications device with the respective e-mail account database (col. 4 lines 8-22).

Arnold teaches a central database as the registration database and retrieval of location information, but does not appear to clearly teach the central database configured to store the location information.

Rierden however, teaches the central database configured to store the location information (See column 8, lines 30-37 and col. 28 lines 49-51 wherein the X-Ref servers are a resource used for determining where specific data resides and see FIG 5. showing the different account information being stored on the data servers.)

Accordingly, in the same field endeavor (i.e. distributed database access and retrieval), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because the teachings of Rierden would have given Arnold the benefit of storage of location information in order to more efficiently service access requests.

Arnold and Rierden teach an interface device retrieving e-mail account location information (Arnold, see above. Rierden may also be seen to teach an interface device as a DDS 150) but they do not appear to teach caching this information as well as subsequently, interfacing said communications device with said respective e-mail account database associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information;

Skene, however, teaches using the cached account location information and subsequently interface said communications device with said respective e-mail account database (0069) associated with the desired e-mail account based upon the email account location information (0068; where the local DNS server provides the cached IP address that is associated (resolved) with the domain name to the client. Flowing to a block 226, the client is connected to the resolved IP address so that the client may access resources (content) associated with the domain name) for caching location information for later referrals in subsequent requests.

Accordingly, in the same field of endeavor, (i.e. distributed database systems), it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the data processing art at the time of the present invention to combine the teachings of the cited references because by caching location information for subsequent use as taught by Skene, Arnold and Rierden would have been able to reduce network traffic and server queries (needed by Arnold describing access requests and maintenance of a mailbox from a client and Rierden, col. 8 lines 47-49 and 9 lines 11-12 when they describe retrieving in per transaction approach) by having necessary data on hand.



With respect to claim 18, Arnold teaches the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 17 wherein the communications device has an operating protocol associated with the communications device (col. 2 lines 55-63); and further comprising at least one protocol interface module using the operating protocol for interfacing said control module with the communications device (col. 2 lines 64-67).

With respect to claim 19, Arnold teaches the non-transitory computer-readable medium of Claim 18 wherein said at least one protocol interface module comprises at least one of a wireless access protocol (WAP) module, a post office protocol (POP) module, and a hypertext markup language (HTML) module (col. 3 lines 23-24; e.g. POP3 communication).

With respect to claim 22, Arnold teaches the communications system of Claim 1 wherein said interface device is configured to receive the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and to use the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-mail account in said respective e-mail account database (col. 4 lines 8-22 and Fig. 7 user email accounts).

With respect to claim 23, Arnold teaches the interface device of Claim 9 wherein said controller is configured to receive the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and to use the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-

mail account in said respective e-mail account database (col. 4 lines 8-22 and Fig. 7 user email accounts).

With respect to claim 24, Arnold teaches the method of Claim 14 further comprising receiving the account access request comprising an e-mail account identifier, and using the e-mail account identifier to identify the respective e-mail account in the respective e-mail account database (col. 4 lines 8-22 and Fig. 7 user email accounts).

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, 14, and 17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure for pertaining to caching location information:

U.S. Patent 7,076,544 issued to Katz et al. The subject matter therein pertains to the pending claims (i.e. caching content for subsequent requests).

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

#### **Contact Information**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ROBERT TIMBLIN whose telephone number is (571)272-5627. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John R. Cottingham can be reached on 571-272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/ROBERT TIMBLIN/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2167